

Problems faced by Agricultural Development Officers of Punjab in using extension teaching methods for transfer of farm technology

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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken to know the various problems faced by Agricultural Development Officers (ADOs) in using different extension teaching methods for transfer of farm technology to the ultimate users. The study was conducted in four purposively selected districts of Punjab State having maximum number of ADOs in position. A special questionnaire was prepared to study the various problems faced by them and the data were collected from 150 ADOs through distributed questionnaire approach during monthly meetings held at district headquarters of each selected district. Majority of the ADOs faced the problems of lack of funds, lack of transport and infrastructural facilities, non-availability of inputs, low educational level of farmers and difficulty in building rapport with them in using individual contact methods for transfer of farm technology. Lack of transport and infrastructural facilities, lack of funds, lack of training, non-cooperation of farmers and difficulty in building rapport and communicating with them were the major problems faced by ADOs in using group contact methods. Problems of lack of opportunity, lack of training, lack of knowledge, non-cooperation from farmers, lack of funds and lack of transport and infrastructural facilities were the other problems pointed out by ADOs in using mass contact methods for transfer of farm technology to the farmers.

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INTRODUCTION

Extension personnel use a wide range of extension teaching methods to disseminate the latest farm information to the farmers. According to Dhammu and Gill (1998), farm experts have observed that hardly 40 % of the available farm technology is reaching the farmers. This points out to the inefficiency of the sources and channels that link farmers to the agricultural scientists and the research institutes. Extension personnel, who are the most important link between effectively and efficiently use various extension teaching methods. Singh (1979) the agricultural research system and the farmers, will be able to disseminate the appropriate, adequate and up-to-date agricultural information only when they observed that extension teaching methods are not exploited to their fullest extent by the extension personnel due to various problems to bring about desirable changes in the farmers and for the speedy transfer of agricultural technology.

Keeping these facts in mind, the present investigation was carried out to study the problems faced by Agricultural Development Officers (ADOs) of Punjab in using different extension teaching methods for the transfer of farm technology.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in four purposively selected districts of Punjab State *i.e.* Amritsar, Ludhiana, Gurdaspur and Sangrur having maximum number of Agricultural Development Officers (ADOs) in position. A list of all the ADOs of four selected districts was prepared and a sample of 150 was selected proportionately on the basis of total number of ADOs in position in each district. A special questionnaire was prepared to study the various problems faced by the ADOs while using different extension teaching methods in the field situation for the transfer of agricultural technology to the farmers. Structured and open ended questions/items were prepared to study the various problems. The questionnaire was pretested on non-sampled respondents and necessary modifications regarding language and deletion of vague questions/items were made after thorough discussion with experts. The data were collected from the ADOs with the help of distributed questionnaire approach during monthly meetings held at district headquarters of each selected district. The data were analysed and tabulated using appropriate statistical tools.

Key words :

Agricultural development officers, Extension teaching methods, Problems, Transfer of farm technology.

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